Losses due to fire at oil/gas wells in Tripura

28. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a devastating fire broke out in the oil]gas wells in Tripura during the exploration by ONGC in February, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the details of loss of life and property in the said fire and the estimated loss of oil|ga$_s$ as a result thereof- and

(c) what are the details of precautions being taken by ONGC to avert incidence of fire in the oil/gas wells?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) On March 8, 1990, there was an uncontrolled flow of gas and water from Tichna well No. 3 (on Tichna structure in Tripura) during drilling operations (there was no oil in the well). The leakage subsequently resulted in fire in the well on 12th March, 1990 which was controlled on 20th March, 1990. The well was capped on 24th March, 1990.

(b) There has been no loss of life or even major injury to any person. A good number of rig equipments were salvaged. However, some rig equipments have been damaged. The quantum of loss is being assessed.

(c) These are regular safety drills on every drill site to avert such incidents. However, an enquiry is in progress to investigate the causes of the incident and suggest steps to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

Seminar on Family Welfare

29. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he inaugurated a seminar on family welfare in New Delhi on the 14th April, 1990;

(b) if so, what strategies were sug-guested therein for checking the growth in population; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The conclusions reached in the seminar, containing, *inter-alia,* the strategies suggested for checking the growth in population, are yet to be finanlised by the Organisers of the seminar.

Recognition of the degrees awarded by the University College of Medical Sciences

30. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAN-RAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a serious controversy has arisen between the Delhi Admi-inistration and the Medical Council of India over the degrees awarded to the students of the University College of Medical Sciences after July, 1985, as reported i$_n$ the 'Patriot' of the 10th April, 1990 captioned 'Delhi Administration's rejoinder to MCI state-ment-UCMS degrees valid';

(b) if so, whether the fate of thousands of medical students hangs in balance as a result of this controversy, who were graduated from the said Medical College during th$_e$ interven-ing period; if so, what is the number of medical graduates and other students whose prospects are so affected; and